



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Open mic night...

The winner of the open mic contest, Spc. Steve Bailey, cargo specialist, 403rd Transportation Company, 264th Logistics Task Force, Fort Bragg, N.C., competes in the tie-breaker round, while runner-up, Spc. Marieange Perkins, ammunition specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. dances to his song. For more see Bagram Farewell, Page 3.

Big Brother is watching you?

Pfc. Charles D. Meseke
CTF-82 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — You are a statistic. Your age, gender, skills, experience and much more information has been collected from you in order to find your place in the numbers of the War on Terror. After reading this you may feel that Big Brother is watching you. Big Brother is, and also is watching out for you. Big Brother is C-1 of Coalition Task Force-82.

The C-1 section of CTF-82 advises and assists the commander and staff on matters of personnel policy, personal readiness, strength accounting and reporting. C-1 is responsible for personnel plans and programs in support of CTF-82 operational and contingency plans.

While C-1 carries out a similar mission in a combat theater to their mission at Fort Bragg as G-1 of the 82nd Airborne Division.

See **C-1**, Page 4

Department of Army implements new retention program

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — With new military operations developing and more troops being activated, soldiers looking at reenlistment should speak with their career counselors to make sure their plans coincide with the new changes made to the Army's retention program.

According to Sgt. 1st Class David Gross, career counselor, Combined Joint Task Force-180, XVIII Airborne Corps., these new

developments are a result of budget cuts and the excessive amount of soldiers presently on active duty.

"Presently, the Army is over its strength by about 10,000 troops," said Gross. "For this reason, the Army has made changes to its retention program to better monitor the budget and soldiers' location and movement."

If a soldier decides to reenlist in the near future, his or her reenlistment options will probably be limited in a few different ways.

"Soldiers used to be able to reenlist for two years with the option of stabilizing at their present duty station," said Gross. "That option is only available now for a three-year minimum reenlistment."

"Moving to another unit within your duty station as a reenlistment option has also been suspended," he added.

In some cases, reenlistment in the same military occupational specialty may not be an option.

"If there is an excessive amount of troop strength in your

rank within your MOS, the only way you can re-up is if you re-class into an area the Army is short in," said Gross.

If soldiers are looking at subsequent reenlistments, their options are narrowed even further.

"If a soldier has reenlisted at least once and still has less than 10 years in service, they can only choose the regular Army reenlistment option, to stabilize at the station they are at, or go to Korea with the option of a guarant-

— See **RETENTION**, Page 3

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

White House dismisses inspectors' optimism

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two days of talks between the chief U.N. weapons inspectors and high-level Iraqi officials gave the inspectors hope that Iraq had finally begun to fully cooperate, but U.S. officials dismissed that hope as too little, too late.

With Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei leaving Baghdad more convinced than ever that the inspections would accomplish Iraq's disarmament peacefully, a Security Council showdown over the next steps appeared unavoidable.

"The ball is very much in Iraq's court," said ElBaradei, adding that he thought he'd seen a "change of heart" among the Iraqis. "If we see quick progress ... then I believe we will be given the time we need to move. As long as we're registering good progress, I think the Security Council in my view will continue to support the inspections process."

But President Bush, speaking at a Republican retreat in West Virginia, said a change of heart was "not good enough."

"The job of the inspectors is not to negotiate with Iraq but to verify whether or not Iraq has weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Report: Cutbacks might have endangered shuttle

WASHINGTON — NASA's chief said Sunday that the independent board probing the Columbia disaster will look into reports that cost cuts during the past decade might have endangered the space program and its astronauts.

An article in Sunday's editions of The New York Times chronicles years of deep budget cuts and layoffs of skilled NASA employees that could have compromised space endeavors.

"Whether I think it is [true] or not is irrelevant," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said when questioned on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer."

"I think the accident investigation board will certainly be examining all the past his-

tory, in terms of the safety record" as well as other contributing factors, O'Keefe said. "We'll be guided by their findings and proceed accordingly."

The independent Accident Investigation Board is led by retired Adm. Harold Gehman, who headed the probe into the attack on the USS Cole. The board includes experts from the Air Force, Transportation Department and Federal Aviation Administration.



Mecca is playing host to two million pilgrims

Mecca pilgrimage heads for Mina

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — About two million Muslim pilgrims jammed the roads to Mina after completing the first ritual of the hajj at Mecca on Sunday.

Pilgrims crammed cars and buses, while others walked, chanting "at thy service, Oh God, at thy service," as they made their way towards the tent city.

Before leaving Mecca, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims completed the first ritual of the hajj by circling the Kaaba, the large cubic stone structure that Muslims face during their five daily prayers.

CNN's Hala Gorani said: "It is buzzing around here in Mecca. It's a huge logistical exercise."

Security is tight amid heightened anti-U.S. sentiment with about 20,000 security personnel deployed in Mecca.

At Mina the pilgrims set up camp for the night before heading to Muzdalifah and Mount Arafat - the remaining sites on the pilgrimage. All three are places where God's word was revealed to mankind through Mohammed.

About 1.5 million visitors and 500,000 locals are estimated to be attending the jour-

ney believed to cleanse Muslims of their sins.

Two Marines charged with plotting to bomb base

TUNKHANNOCK, Penn. — Two U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, are in custody after conspiring to use an explosive device at their base, police said.

Lance Cpls. Richard Morrison, 21, and Richard Thomas Medders, 22, were arrested Saturday along with Janna Rebecca Lynn Smith, 27, and charged with criminal conspiracy to cause or risk a catastrophe, and making terrorist threats and bomb threats, Pennsylvania State Police said.

The three downloaded information from the Internet on making explosive devices and said they were going to use them at Camp Lejeune, police said.

All three are being held in the Wyoming County Correctional Facility.

Morrison and Medders served in the 2nd Force Service Support Group, which provides combat support, said Staff Sgt. Jay Connolly, a spokesman for Camp Lejeune.

Tunkhannock is about 25 miles northwest of Scranton in northern Pennsylvania.

Sharon vows to remove Palestinians' 'terrorist leadership'

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday his new government would seek to remove what he called the Palestinians' "terrorist leadership."

But Sharon, who met Wednesday with a senior Palestinian official, did not directly call for the removal of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"The new government will have to complete the campaign against terror, remove the terrorist leadership and create conditions for the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership, with which it will be possible to make real peace," Sharon said Sunday as he formally accepted Israeli President Moshe Katsav's offer to form a new government.

Sharon's Likud party won the largest share of seats in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in elections nearly two weeks ago. He now has six weeks to form a government.

Bagram farewells 769th, welcomes V-day

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Hip-hop and R&B music fill the room as the crowd dances to the beat.

This is a situation expected in a club, not in a deployed environment, but it was the scene here Saturday night at Dragon Palace.

Shannon Stewart, Kellogg, Brown and Root food service supervisor, organized this party as well as the two before it.

"I just do it for the morale of the soldiers," said Stewart. "I used to be a soldier and no one ever did this for us."

According to Stewart, the first party, pre-Christmas, didn't go well, so a survey was conducted. The second, for New Years, went well and the soldiers liked it so much they began asking about a third.

This party was planned for three reasons: to honor the 769th Engineer Battalion, to celebrate a Marine's birthday and Valentine's Day.

"We wanted to honor the 769th because they have given us so much support.

"We can't give them money or an award so we threw a party for them," said Stewart.

During the party, there were two con-



Photos by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Spc. Marieange Perkins, ammunitions specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. sings during the open mic contest.

tests, an open mic and a dance contest. There was a tie in the open mic contest and a tie-breaker.

The winner of the open mic contest, Spc. Steve Bailey, cargo specialist, 403rd Transportation Company, 264th Logistics Task Force, Fort Bragg, N.C., received \$25, but gave it to the runner-up, Spc. Marieange Perkins, ammunitions specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.



Soldiers and Coalition forces dance at the Pre-Valentine's Day party on Saturday.

"I thought she had very good talent and deserved it," said Bailey.

The dance contest had three winners who won \$200 each.

The contests were judged by a panel of Kellogg, Brown and Root judges.

"Everyone wants these parties to be a success. We have a host of people who help us — the Army, the Air Force, the Dining Facility, Brown and Root. They all help out so everyone shows up," said Stewart.

Stewart is going on leave and wanted to organize this party before he left. In addition, he plans to organize a talent show before he leaves.

Stewart is also planning a "beach party" for the Fourth of July with blow-up pools, beach balls and water balloons.

"It's just something to give the soldiers a break," said Stewart. "You can't win a war without having some fun."

RETENTION, from Page 1 —

teed return to CONUS," said Gross.

Another incentive that has been cut back on, is the reenlistment bonus.

"Bonuses have been limited considerably compared to the last fiscal year," said Gross. "Not only are the funds limited, but also the MOS's which offer bonuses."

Gross said the Army has good reasons for all of these changes.

"This is the Army's way of properly funding and giving priority to all of the different opera-

tions the military is involved in right now," said Gross. "It also helps them keep an eye on where troops are and where they're going just in case they are needed for a mission."

Even with all of the new changes, Gross said soldiers should still consider reenlisting.

"The soldiers' patience is appreciated during this time. Hopefully things will die down soon and we can start providing troops with more options. Even with the changes, the Army is still a great opportunity for soldiers to continue doing good things for their families and for their country."



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Sgt. 1st Class David Gross, career counselor, Combined Joint Task Force-180, goes over corporal-recruiting options with a soldier. Gross encourages soldiers to reenlist even with the recent changes.

C-1, from Page 1

sion, there are some differences, said Maj. Mark A. Miller, officer in charge of C-1.

While in a combat zone, C-1 provides personnel data on not only 82nd paratroopers, but all coalition forces to include soldiers from countries other than the U.S., explained Staff Sgt. Jeffery D. Rohman, noncommissioned officer in charge of C-1.

"We have a good bunch of kids over here who are working hard with what they've got,"

- Staff Sgt. Jeffery D. Rohman

Knowing that C-1 holds all this information of each soldier in CTF-82, one may think that the hangar that houses CTF-82 is really filled with file cabinets, but all the paper work is consolidated and networked through computers.

"We have five laptop computers, two desktop computers, NIPERNET and SIPERNET capabilities," said Miller.

The C-1 uses this technology to give an accurate update to the commander at each morning briefing.

They brief the commander on the number of personnel at locations throughout Afghanistan, and what portions of CTF-82 are on missions, support, force protection, and other tasks in the war on terror, Rohman explained.

The job of knowing the coalition isn't easy, but C-1 is up to the task, Rohman said.

"We have a good bunch of kids over here who are working hard with what they've got," complimented Rohman of the soldiers working under him.

Whether you are checking identification at a check point, on patrol at a forward operating base, or serving food in the dining facility, Big Brother knows where you are and what you are doing. C-1 is keeping tabs on everyone to make sure that Operation Enduring Freedom runs smoothly, and efficiently.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building:
"Unforgiven." Retired Old West gunslinger William Munny reluctantly takes on one last job, with the help of his old partner and a young man.

Tomorrow's movie will be "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 50F L: 23F	<i>Isolated showers</i> H: 46F L: 29F
Kandahar:	<i>Mostly sunny</i> H: 57F L: 36F	<i>Haze</i> H: 59F L: 37F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 54F L: 25F	<i>Haze</i> H: 45F L: 27F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 65F L: 36F	<i>Scattered showers</i> H: 54F L: 37F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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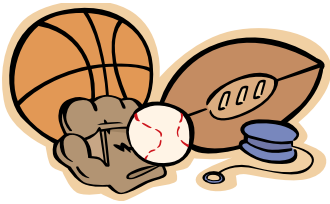
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Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the CJTF-180 link to get the latest editions of the *Freedom Watch*.

To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil



Coalition Sports Zone

Soccer/European Football (Compiled from ESPN.com)

Arsenal maintains Premier League lead

NEWCASTLE, England — Champion Arsenal ended Newcastle United's 11-game run of home victories but had to settle for a 1-1 draw Sunday after Frenchman Laurent Robert scored a second-half goal before being sent off.

The point kept the London side three points clear of second-place Manchester United after Alex Ferguson's team also was held 1-1 by Manchester City at Old Trafford.

Thierry Henry gave Arsenal a 35th-minute lead in a first half dominated by Arsenal before Robert equalized in the 53rd minute, only to be sent off four minutes later for a second bookable offense.

The champions looked strong for long periods of the game but ultimately Newcastle merited a share of the spoils with the visitors unable to make the numerical advantage count.

Only a late save by England goalkeeper David Seaman denied Newcastle a stoppage-time victory.

The draw means Arsenal has 57 points from 27 games and Manchester United has 54 from the same amount. Newcastle has 49 points with a game in hand on its rivals.



Newcastle's Alan Shearer, left, and Patrick Vieira of Arsenal go toe to toe.

Takahara ends Kahn's shutout streak

BERLIN — A last-minute goal by Hamburg SV's Naohiro Takahara stunned leader Bayern Munich on Sunday and ended goalkeeper Oliver Kahn's Bundesliga record of more than 800 minutes without conceding a goal.

Bayern, leading 1-0, was set to open a 10-point lead at the top before the striker, which joined Hamburg in the midseason break from Japanese champions Jubilo Iwata, scored his first Hamburg goal in the dying seconds of the game.

Champions Borussia Dortmund lost 1-0 at VfB Stuttgart, which joins them on 36 points in second place. Bayern has 44.

"Naturally I'm disappointed over the unnecessary equalizer in injury time, we should have been 2-0 up at halftime," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Peru striker Claudio Pizarro had opened the scoring in the 11th

minute for Bayern with a header off a Ze Roberto cross.

"It's very annoying to lose two points like that but things ran well for us — at least we got one point and Dortmund didn't," said Hitzfeld. Takahara was the J-League player of the year last season after scoring 26 goals in 27 league games.

Croatia's Zvonimir Soldo settled the Stuttgart/Dortmund match with a 77th-minute goal and it will need an astonishing collapse for Bayern not to win its 17th post-war title.

Midway through the first half Kahn, who was largely responsible for Germany's run to the World Cup final last year, broke his own record of 736 minutes without conceding a goal.

Takahara's strike means Kahn's new mark is provisionally 802 minutes. If German Cup games are taken into consideration Kahn's total is more than 1,000 minutes.

"In the first half you had the feeling my team were trying to help Ollie Kahn extend his record," said Hamburg coach Kurt Jara. "We can be very pleased with the result as we got a point against the best team in Germany."

Larsson breaks jaw in two places

GLASGOW — Sweden's Henrik Larsson, the most prolific striker in Scottish soccer, broke his jaw in two places in Celtic's 2-1 victory over Livingston on Sunday.

Manager Martin O'Neill said Larsson, who was substituted in the 17th minute of the champions' win, had been taken to hospital and would be operated on later Sunday.

"I really don't know how bad it is at the moment," said O'Neill. "It's a major blow to us because Henrik is a world-class player."

"He will be operated on tonight. I would hope that he will come back before the end of the season to be perfectly honest."

"Sometimes these operations go so well, and I'm only guessing, but I'm hoping that it is going to be weeks rather than months."

"But knowing Henrik — he came back from a broken leg and I think he will come back as quickly as possible."

The striker, who retired from international soccer after last year's World Cup, is top scorer in the league with 24 goals. Last year, he topped the league marksmen list with 29 goals in only 33 games.

The Glasgow club did not include Welsh striker John Hartson in its squad for the match. He had looked unhappy to be substituted in Celtic's 3-0 Scottish League Cup semi-final win over Dundee United on Thursday.

Manager O'Neill did not comment on Hartson's surprising absence other than to say that "I pick the team." It was Hartson's away goal at Spain's Celta Vigo in December which put Celtic through to the UEFA Cup fourth round — its best European performance in 23 years.

SPORTS, from Page 5

Celtic's come-from-behind victory kept the pressure on front-runners Rangers, who lead the Scottish Premier League by three points.

Pele trying to bring Cosmos back

MIAMI — Soccer legend Pele and the owner of the defunct New York Cosmos, Giuseppe Peppe Pinton, have approached the MLS and Anschutz Entertainment Group in an attempt to bring the team back.

Brazilian newspapers are reporting Saturday that Pinton, who owns the rights to the Cosmos name and logo, is in the preliminary stages of exploration and has teamed up with Pele's Pro company to research their MLS bid.

MLS officials were not immediately available for comment, but sources acknowledged that Pinton had contacted the league with regards to reviving the team and the name.

In related news, the Canadian Soccer Association has thrown Toronto's name into the hat for MLS expansion, linking the bid with the development of a new 30,000-seat stadium in the city. The new stadium has been proposed alongside Canada's bid to host the 2007 Women's World Cup.

Inter Milan move three points clear

MILAN — Inter Milan moved three points clear at the top of Serie A after they beat Reggina 3-0 while a stunning strike from Fabrizio Miccoli gave Perugia a 1-0 win over AC Milan.

Christian Vieri put Inter ahead with a superb volley after 10 minutes but had to go off with a knee injury in the 29th minute.

His replacement Mohammed Kallon made it 2-0 from close range in the 39th minute and wrapped the game up three minutes before the break from the penalty spot.

Perugia striker Miccoli celebrated his call-up for Italy's friendly with Portugal on Wednesday by sinking Milan with a rocketing 25-metre strike in the 36th minute.

Inter lead with 45 points from Milan and Juventus, who are tied on 42 points. Juventus beat Empoli 1-0 on Saturday.

Lazio fell further off the pace after they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Torino - their third match without a win.

AS Roma's disappointing season continued as they needed a late equalizer from Traianos Dellas to get a 1-1 draw at mid-table Modena.

Keane hasn't yet decided future

KILMARNOCK, Scotland — New Ireland manager Brian Kerr says he will not pressure Manchester United's captain Roy Keane into making a decision about his international future following his controversial World Cup exit last year.

Kerr, preparing for Wednesday's friendly with Scotland at Hampden Park in his first game in charge, held a meeting with Keane on Thursday which he described as "important."

Keane has not said if he will return to play for his country after being kicked out of the squad on the eve of last year's World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan and Kerr is prepared to wait for the midfielder's decision.

"I had a meeting as you and everybody else in the world seems to know about and until we've come to the end of that process, I won't talk about it," Kerr told reporters at the squad's base in Kilmarnock on Sunday.

"I'd say that I'd done one part of it which was important to have a meeting and we've had a meeting.

"I don't want to be too evasive but you understand it's a delicate situation and it doesn't do any good for me to talk about it publicly. I won't say anything more until we reach a conclusion."

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

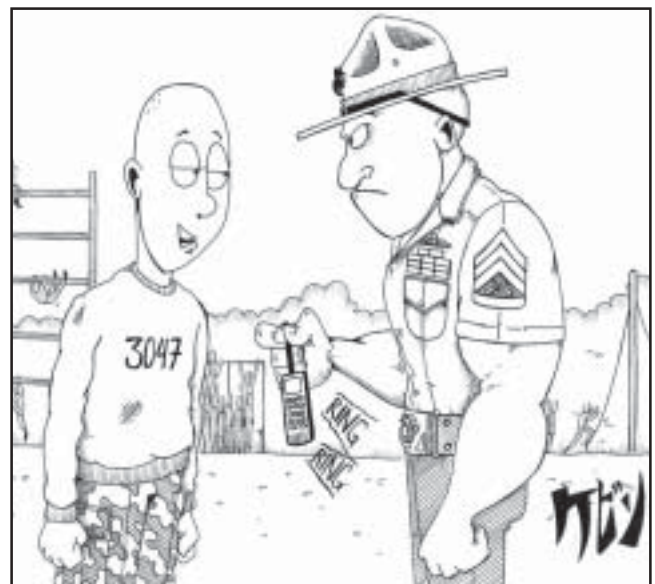
Rebecca Cole, physician

Born: 1846 **Birthplace:** Philadelphia, Pa.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Cole was the second black woman to graduate from medical school (1867). She joined Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first white woman physician, in New York and taught hygiene and childcare to families in poor neighborhoods.

Died: 1922

"Be a good chap and take a message."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support